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of this material. On September 7, two weeks after receipt of instructions, equipment was en route to the various National Guard and National Army organizations at cantonments throughout the country. These shipments comprised a total of about 48,000,000 pounds in some 64,000 separate cases and packages.

By November 1 the outstanding obligations on orders placed for engineer material, equipment, and supplies, aggregated \$130,000,000, and disbursements in payments for material delivered had reached the sum of \$15,000,000 per month. Another important task of the engineers has been to provide efficient methods for the receipt, storage, and shipment abroad, with proper accounting system, for this mass of supplies as well as for the vast equipment for field operations and construction work.

The engineers of the railway section have undertaken to transport and install and put into operation overseas a complete railroad equipment. The railway problem in the theater of operations in France involves not only the organization, equipment and military training of railroad troops for the construction, maintenance and operation of standard and narrow gauge roads necessary for the supply of our armies, but also the purchase, inspection and shipment of immense quantities of railroad equipment—rails, ties, locomotives, cars, shop tools, etc.—necessary for the development of adequate port facilities, construction of new lines and their successful operation. The estimate of the situation in France was confirmed by the French commission, headed by Marshal Joffre, and the means of meeting it have been carried on with intensity.

Trained officials in various departments of American railroads were called upon for the officers, and ex-

perienced railroad employees for the enlisted men, of the nine railroad regiments, each of 33 officers and approximately 1,100 men.

The cost of materials ordered to date is approximately \$70,000,000 including some hundreds of locomotives, more than 100,000 tons of steel rails, more than 3,000 complete turnouts, 500,000 ties, 12,000 freight cars, 600 fill and ballast cars, 600 miles of telephone wire and apparatus, as well as vast quantities of construction and repair equipment.

The engineers have also undertaken the work of organizing and equipping special troops for special services, such as lumber supply, road construction, sanitary construction, camouflage service, gas and flame service, mining work, mapping, etc. Preferred attention has been given to the organization and equipment of the first forestry regiment, to be sent to France to produce lumber and timber from French forests. Three additional regiments are to be organized. The cooperation of the Forestry Service of the Department of Agriculture has been extended in the selection of personnel and equipment. In addition to all of these duties, the Engineer Corps has maintained its regular service in the preservation and improvement of navigable waters in the United States and construction of coast defenses. New batteries are being pushed to completion with energy.

#### *THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUDUBON SOCIETIES.*

THE European war has so stimulated a study of the economic uses of birds that the National Association of Audubon Societies was able to report at its annual meeting on October 30 that its sustaining membership had increased thirty-three and a third per cent. during the last year. The growth of the society and the generous financial support

which it has received encouraged its secretary, Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, to suggest a campaign for the raising of funds with which to build a permanent headquarters for the association in New York City.

The National Association of Audubon Societies, with which are affiliated 134 organizations throughout the U. S., has been devoting special attention to the protection of birds which help conserve crops by destroying weed seeds, rodent pests and injurious insects. This, in no small measure, is regarded as the reason for the movement being joined by so many prominent and influential persons who have been impressed by this service in behalf of the American people. During the year the association enrolled one patron and one hundred and eleven life members. The sustaining membership increased from 3,024 to 4,030.

A significant indication of the activity of the association in conservation the last year is given by the reports of the wardens. In the twelve months just closed forty-six wardens were employed and patrol boats were provided for three additional government wardens. During the year the association put in commission a new warden patrol boat on Klamath Lake, Oregon, while another such craft to be paid for by the income of the Mary Dutcher Memorial Fund is being built for work on the Pelican Island Reservation, Florida. An important feature of the work is the guarding of colonies of aquatic fowl. Reports of the wardens of rookeries show that in the aggregate something over 1,043,000 water-birds were bred in the various protected sanctuaries. This estimate covers forty species including gulls, skimmers, terns, egrets, herons, ibises, pelicans, and a few quillemons, eider ducks, Florida ducks, limpkins, and puffins. Innumerable small birds and various

migratory shore-birds also found protection in these guarded areas.

Coordination of the work of the national association and the state and local endeavors is bringing splendid results in bird protection. Some places recently set aside for the welcoming of the feathered hosts are the Julia Hanson Bird Reservation at Fort Meyers, in Florida, while the entire community at Winter Park in that State has been made an avine haven. Indiana reports that a sanctuary has been established near Muncie and also that a new State Park has been created and designated McCormick's Creek Canyon Bird Reservation. The Beaver Field and Audubon Club has recently established a twenty-five acre sanctuary at Beaver, Pennsylvania.

An important new development of the work of the association is the Saturday morning bird-walk which starts at eight o'clock from the Music Stand at the head of the Mall, Central Park, New York City, weather permitting. The leader of this weekly expedition in birdland is Mr. Walt F. McMahon, of the headquarters' staff. The object of the Saturday walks is to demonstrate to the teeming millions of the metropolis that in the very center of a realm of towering buildings there is a wild life as interesting as that of the distant thickets and forests. The lecturer in his addresses in which he reviews the observations of an hour is able to impress many lessons concerning the economic uses of birds. This work will undoubtedly extend to other cities.

The association has formed in the last year in the United States and Canada 11,935 Junior Audubon Clubs, with a total membership of 261,654 paid members, among the school children of the nation, an increase of 50,000 over 1916. This work, as heretofore, was financed to the extent of \$5,000 by Mrs. Russell

Sage and by \$20,000 from a benefactor of the birds whose identity as far as is known has never been discovered by anyone, save the gentleman who annually sends the checks. After five years during which \$94,000 have been received from this source, the only knowledge that the secretary has regarding the donor is that the money probably comes from a man. The educational work of the National Association has been extended in many other directions through field agents, lecturers, summer schools, exhibitions and by the distribution of large quantities of literature. In every branch there has been manifested a growing interest in this important enterprise which has done so much for the protection of the birds and animals of field and forest.

#### THE CAUSES OF DEATH BY OCCUPATION

BASED upon 94,269 deaths of male and 102,467 deaths of female industrial policyholders, 15 years of age and over, as recorded in 1911, 1912 and 1913, by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, tuberculosis caused the death of 20.5 per cent. of the former and 14.4 per cent. of the latter, while organic diseases of the heart were responsible for 12 per cent. of the deaths of males and 14.8 per cent. of the deaths of females. The average age of men dying from tuberculosis was 37.1 years and of women 34.1 years. Of males the lowest average age at death, 31.1 years, was among those who died from typhoid fever, and of females the lowest average age at death, 29 years, was among those who died at child birth. By occupation, the lowest average age at death was 36.5 years among bookkeepers and office assistants and the highest average age was 58.5 years among farmers and farm laborers. These facts are brought out in tabular form in a bulletin entitled "Causes of death

by occupation," a study made by Louis I. Dublin and recently issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Tuberculosis was responsible for the largest number of deaths among clerks, bookkeepers and office assistants (35 per cent.); compositors and printers (34.1 per cent.); gas fitters and steam fitters (31.6 per cent.); longshoremen and stevedores (29.2 per cent.); teamsters, drivers and chauffeurs (28.2 per cent.); saloonkeepers and bartenders (26 per cent.); machinists (25 per cent.); cigar makers and tobacco workers (24.1 per cent.); textile mill workers (22 per cent.); iron molders (21.9 per cent.); painters, paperhangers and varnishers (21.9 per cent.); masons and bricklayers (19 per cent.); bakers (18.8 per cent.); laborers (16.4 per cent.); blacksmiths (14 per cent.). Accidental violence was responsible for the largest number of deaths among railway engineers and trainmen (42.3 per cent.); railway track and yard workers (20.8 per cent.); and coal miners (20.4 per cent.); while the largest number of farmers and farm laborers (16.4 per cent.) died from organic diseases of the heart, due to the facts that the prevalence of these diseases increases with age and that the average age at death of those in this group is higher than any other group.

Similarly, among women the largest number of housewives and housekeepers (15.2 per cent.) died from organic diseases of the heart for the same reasons stated above, while tuberculosis took the largest proportion of clerks, bookkeepers and office assistants (42.4 per cent.); clerks and saleswomen (38.7 per cent.); textile mill workers (35.5 per cent.); dressmakers and garment workers (27.8 per cent.); and domestic servants (15.9 per cent.). The average age at death was 26.1 years among clerks, book-